

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 8467

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION - PRESS REVIEW OCTOBER 22

1. RADIO NEWSCASTS AND AFTERNOON PRESS HIGHLIGHT GOI
UNANIMOUS ACCEPTANCE OF US-USSR CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION
EMPHASIZING ISRAEL'S CONDITIONS THAT PRINCIPLE OF MUTUALITY
BE OBSERVED AND ISRAEL'S INSISTENCE ON POW EXCHANGE BEFORE
CEASEFIRE BECOMES EFFECTIVE. AFTERNOON PRESS WARNS
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THAT US-USSR CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION MIGHT BECOME TRAP FOR
ISRAEL. MORNING PRESS COMMENTARIES, WRITTEN BEFORE
PASSING OF UN RESOLUTION, TALK ABOUT: (A) ISRAEL'S DILEMMA
WHETHER IT CAN TAKE RISK AND ACCEPT PEACE BASED ON SIGNIFICANT

TERRITORIAL CONCESSION: (B) PRESIDENT NIXON AND KISSINGER'S APPROACH CALLS FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIETS AND ARABS NOT FROM POSITION OF WEAKNESS; (C) USSR, REALIZING OUTCOME OF BATTLE, DECIDED TO EXPLOIT SITUATION TO STRENGTHEN ANTI-AMERICAN COALITION IN MIDDLE EAST: AND (D) ISRAEL SHOULD BRING ABOUT MILITARY DECISIONS ON FRONTS WITHOUT REGARDING ENEMY. MILITARY ANALYSTS TALK ABOUT FAVORABLE CONDITIONS ON SOUTHERN FRONT. HAARETZ (ARIEL) SAYS THOUSANDS OF TERRORISTS ARE OPERATING AGAINST ISRAEL FROM SOUTH LEBANON. COMMENTATORS CONCERNED LEST "NEW LEGISLATIVE CRISIS" OVER WATERGATE DIVERTS PRESIDENT NIXON'S ATTENTION FROM MIDDLE EAST.

2. CEASEFIRE: (A) MAARIV (INDEPENDENT)(SEGEV FROM WASHINGTON) WRITES: "THIS VAGUE DRAFTING OF CLAUSE 3 (OF DRAFT RESOLUTION) WHICH CALLS FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES "UNDER APPROPRIATE AUSPICES"---IT HAS BEEN LEARNED FROM RELIABLE SOURCES--THAT THE INTENTION IS (TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS) UNDER THE JOINT AUSPICES OF THE US AND THE USSR AND NOT THE ENTIRE UN SECURITY COUNCIL... THE SOURCES SAY THAT THIS HAS BEEN AGREED UPON BETWEEN KISSINGER AND BREZHNEV BUT IN ORDER NOT TO GIVE RISE TO OPPOSITION AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL THE DRAFTING WAS PURPOSELY MADE IN A VAGUE MANNER."

(B) MAARIV (SCHNEITZER) WRITES: "THERE IS A NATURAL TENDENCY TO RESPOND TO A CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION THAT IS SUBMITTED BY THE TWO SUPERPOWERS... THE TIMING OF THIS RESOLUTION DICTATES CAUTIOUS HANDLING (BY ISRAEL)....THE RESOLUTION MIGHT BECOME A TRAP FOR ISRAEL...IT IS MEANT TO SAVE THE EGYPTIAN ARMY FROM UNAVOIDABLE DEFEAT, WHICH HAS BECOME ONLY A QUESTION OF DAYS..."

(C) MAARIV EDITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGES THAT "TERRITORIALLY" ISRAEL HAS COME OUT OF THE BATTLE WITH SIGNIFICANT GAINS. HOWEVER EDITOR RECALLS ISRAEL'S EXPERIENCE WITH ARABS ON PAST CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENTS AND WARNS THAT ARABS MIGHT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CEASEFIRE TO GET READY FOR A NEW ROUND.

(D) MAARIV COMMENTATOR SAYS: "THE US-USSR PROPOSAL... HASTILY CONCLUDED... IS AN ATTEMPT TO BECLOUD ISRAEL'S MILITARY VICTORY, IN ORDER TO SAVE EGYPT FROM A MILITARY-POLITICAL DEFEAT

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(AND WITH IT TO SAVE MOSCOW)... AS WELL AS AN ATTEMPT TO LEAVE LARGE TERRITORIES WITH EGYPT... EAST OF THE CANAL AS A PRIZE FOR THEIR BELLIGERENCY. A CEASEFIRE, UNDER THE PROPOSED CONDITIONS, MEANS THAT SADAT CAN CLAIMS THAT THANKS TO THE WAR HE INITIATED AND LOST MILITARILY.... HE CAME OUT POLITICALLY WITH HIS HANDS ON TOP...(THAT HE MANGED) TO FORCE THE SUPERPOWERS TO ACT JOINTLY AND URGENTLY TO FIND A HALF-COMPULSORY SOLUTION IN OUR REGION..."

(E) YEDIOT AHARONOT (GUINEY) REMARKS: "THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT IF CAIRO ACCEPTS THE CEASEFIRE AS SUCH, IT WILL COME UNDER HARD CRITICISM FROM SYRIA AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES, WHO STRICTLY OPPOSE ANY ARRANGEMENT WITH ISRZEL... FOR ISRAEL TOO, THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE US-USSR PROPOSAL IS A BITTER

PILL... NOT BECAUSE OF THE CEASEFIRE PROPOSAL... BUT BECAUSE OF THE TIMING OF THE PROPOSAL... SINCE EACH ADDITIONAL DAY (OF WAR) WOULD HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE IDF TO EXPAND THE TERRITORIES UNDER ITS CONTROL... WE HAVE KNOWN FROM THE BEGINNING THAT THE CEASEFIRE WILL COME BEFORE THE IDF MANAGES TO LIQUIDATE THE EGYPTIAN FORCES EAST OF THE CANAL... ONE IMPORTANT COMPENSATION (FOR ISRAEL) IS THE BRIDGEHEAD WHICH WE MANAGED TO LAY WEST OF THE CANAL.... ANOTHER COMPENSATION WOULD BE THAT NO ADDITIONAL NAMES WOULD BE ADDED TO THE LONG LIST OF CASUALTIES..."

(F) YEDIOT AHARONOT (IND) EDITORIALIZES: "IT SEEMS THAT THE AGREEMENT... ACHIEVED THROUGH BREZHNEV -KISSINGER TALKS CAME AS A SURPRISE TO ALL AND THE FIRST IMPRESSION IT LEAVES DOES NOT TAKE A BURDEN FROM OUR HEARTS...(SINCE) (A) KOSYGIN CAME BACK FROM EGYPT CARRYING ITS AGREEMENT TO A SOVIET PLAN THAT WAS SUBMITTED A FEW HOURS LATE TO KISSINGER...(B) THE SOVIET-EGYPTIAN TALKS WERE CARRIED OUT WITH THE US KNOWLEDGE AND CONSENT..(C) THE DETAILS OF THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT IS MEANT TO TAKE AWAY THE FRUIT OF THE ISRAELI VICTORY, (AND IS) LESS CONVENIENT TO US THAN THE ROGERS PLAN... (D) THE TALKS WITH MOSCOW ARE CARRIED OUT BEHIND OUR BACK... (E) THE URGENCY HAS BEEN INFLUENCED BY THE ATTEMPT TO SAVE THE ARABS FROM DEFEAT..." EDITORIAL CONTINUES:"... PERHAPS THERE ARE OTHER SECRET CLAUSES IN THE AGREEMENT... THE GOI AND THE IDF SHOULD NOT WATCH THE CEASEFIRE CLOCK.... BUT ATTEMPT TO DOUBLE THE EFFORTS ON THE FRONTS..."

3. ISRAL'S DILEMMA: HAARETZ (IND) (SCHWEITZER)

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COMMENTS: "... THE FIRST PROBLEM THAT CONFRONTS ISRAEL... IS WHETHER IT CAN TAKE A RISK AND MAKE PEACE BASED ON SIGNIFICANT TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS, OR SHOULD IT CONTINUE TO GAMBLE ON ITS MILITARY CAPABILITIES--- WHICH FOR THIS PURPOSE -- IS A COMBINATION OF SUPERIORITY OF FORCES AND WIDE PROTECTIVE (SEGMENTS OF) TERRITORIES... IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT EVEN A TOTAL AND BINDING PEACE COULD PROVIDE THE ANSWER TO ISRAEL'S (SECURITY) REQUIREMENTS... THE QUESTION IS WHETHER IN VIEW OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES RESOLUTENESS TO LIQUIDATE ISRAEL -- WHICH HAS SO IMPRESSED DAYAN (REFERENCE IN DAYAN'S RADIO/TV, INTERVIEW OCT 20) MIGHT JUST BECOME A MEANS TO PUT ISRAEL TO SLEEP AND NOT TO RESOLVE THE CRISIS..." SCHWEITZER CONTINUES:"... WHEN THE PEACE QUESTION SHALL ARISE... IT WILL BE HARD FOR ISRAEL TO REJECT PEACE PROPOSALS THAT ARE SUPPORTED BY THE U.S...."

4.

HRROGARSTS IN LEBANON: (A) YEDIOT AHARONOT COMMENTATOR NOTE: "... LEBANON HAS LATELY GRANTED THE TERRORISTS A FREE HAND... THINKING THAT ISRAEL IS TOO OCCUPIED... ISRAEL'S HAND IS BECOMING FREER... VERY SOON THE WAR WILL END AND OUR EXCLUSIVE ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN TO LEBANON... AND IF LEBANON

DOES NOT WANT US TO SETTLE THE ACCOUNT- IT BETTER TAKE THE SITUATION UNDER ITS IMMEDIATE CONTROL..."

(B) HAARETZ (ARIEL) SAYS: "THE NUMBER OF TERRORISTS OPERATING FROM SOUTH LEBANON AGAINST ISRAEL HAS REACHED THOUSANDS. THE LEBANESE GOVT DOES NOT WANT TO ACT AGAINST THEM NOW IN ORDER TO PREVENT A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE TERRORISTS AND ITS ARMY... HAARETZ WRITER HAS LEARNED THAT THE LEBANESE GOVT IS NOW IGNORING ALL AGREEMENTS WHICH REQUIRED THE TERRORISTS NOT TO OPERATE FROM ROSH HANIKRA AND NOT TO ENTER THE VILLAGES SOUTH OF LEBANON.... LEBANON IS DOING SO TO AVOID ACCUSATIONS FROM ARAB COUNTRIES..." WRITER CONTINUES: "... RECENTLY LONG RANGE TANKS, CAPTURED FROM THE RETREATING SYRIANS, HAVE BEEN USED AGAINST THE TERRORISTS...."

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